



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

#2712

The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

September 5, 2008

Mr. Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

The Executive Director of the Episcopal Home of Shippensburg, PA, Ms. Mary Grace Shearer, MSW, sent you an advisement dated September 3, 2008. In that letter she expressed her concerns relative to the newly promulgated Assisted Living Care regulations of, and for, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Board of Directors support the conclusions addressed in Ms. Shearer's letter.

As Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Home facility, I wish to express my concerns about these regulations as to intent and process of implementation. The Episcopal Home, fully licensed as a Personal Care Home, is a very important ministry of this Diocese. The full Board and I are concerned that the vagaries of rule interpretation, and associated potential regulatory compliance costs, have the real potential to threaten the survival of this ministry.

I request caution in implementing these regulations as they are now proposed, and suggest a thorough review of intent, process and potential outcomes throughout the "residential home industry." Furthermore, I would ask we be notified as to any future hearings so that we may offer expert testimony in favor of our position.

Yours Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Nathan D. Baxter, D.Min., S.T.D., D.H.L., D.D.
Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

NDB:cjp

c.c. Mary Grace Shearer, Executive Director
The Rev. Canon Joseph Seville, Board President

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